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# Forest Service NEWS



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## FIRE AWARENESS TIME

PORTLAND, July 18--Residents and visitors of Oregon and Washington are encouraged to be careful with fire in the forests this summer as the Pacific Northwest moves into the warm, dry months of July, August and September.

Administrators of six public land management agencies in the two states have issued their annual "Fire Awareness Time" message in an effort to keep wildfires from starting on forests and rangelands of Oregon and Washington.

The annual "Fire Awareness Time" campaign will run from July 15 through the Labor Day weekend, and longer if the fire danger remains high. Last year Pacific Northwest wildfire control agencies were challenged by one of the driest summers on record, with over 4,000 fires and nearly 300,000 acres burned on all federal and state protected lands in the two states. These costly and disastrous fires act as a fresh reminder of the need for special precautions in the months ahead.

Participating in the fire awareness campaign are the Oregon State Department of Forestry, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, and 20 local fire prevention cooperatives in the two states. The cooperatives include representatives from many rural and city fire departments, the six public land management agencies and other fire service organizations in the two states. Despite a wet spring, the number of fires thus far indicates the potential for another severe fire season.

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